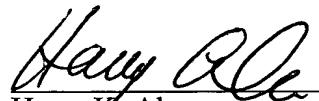


**REMARKS**

Applicant has added new claims 23-25. Applicant has also amended each claim to recite a central venous catheter shaft rather than a central venous catheter. Claims 1-25 are now pending in this application. No new matter has been added as the new claims and amendments to the existing claims are fully supported by the specification and figures.

Based upon the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and its earlier allowance. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorney would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact him at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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